

REMARKS

As indicated in the Office Action, claims 1-36 remain in the application.

By this response, the Applicants reinstate claims 3, 4, 7-10, 15-36 which were withdrawn by the Preliminary Amendment and Election filed on April 9, 2003. The Applicants also hereby confirms the election of Group I (claims 1-36) for purpose of examination with traverse.

In the Office Action, claims 1-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,811,438 to Economou, in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0050589 A1 to McDevitt et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,833,238 to Lucca, et al. Claim 36 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Economou in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,309,369 to Lebovic. Issue is taken with that position.

Claim 1 in the subject application provides a particular method for treating puncture wounds. The Applicants respectfully submit that none of the prior art references cited by the Examiner discloses a method for treatment of a puncture wound, which extends to a blood vessel.

Furthermore, claim 1 claims a method which combines applying pressure proximal to the puncture wound in order to at least partially collapse the blood vessel, and directing an application surface, which comprises a cationic biopolymer of glucosamine to the puncture wound. The prior art references Economou, McDevit et al., and Delucca et al. did not teach or suggest the step of applying pressure proximal to the puncture wound to collapse the blood vessel, nor did the prior art references teach or suggest a combination of the step of applying pressure to the puncture wound and the step of directing cationic biopolymer of glucosamine to the puncture wound. Therefore, the Application respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the prior art references cited by the Examiner. Dependent claims 2-36 include all the limitations of claim 1, thus also should be patentable over the prior art references.

Moreover, regarding claims 1-35, the Examiner indicated that "since poly-D-glucosamine would have the same healing properties as poly-N-acetylglucosamine, it can be used interchangeably or in conjunction with poly-N-acetylglucosamine." The Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art references cited by the Examiner did not show that poly-D-glucosamine has the same healing properties as poly-N-acetylglucosamine, nor did the prior art references

show that poly-D-glucosamine and poly-N-acetyglucosamine can be used interchangeably. There is no base for the Examiner's assertion that poly-D-glucosamine and poly-N-acetyglucosamine can be used interchangeably. The Applicants respectfully submit that claims, which includes the limitation that the biopolymer of glucosamine comprises poly-D-glucosamine, are patentable over the prior art references.

Since claims 1-36 are not obvious in light of the references cited, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

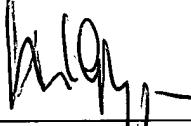
CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that all the pending claims 1-36 are in condition of allowance. If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

No additional costs are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-1133.

Respectfully submitted,

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